

**Amendments to the Specification:**

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 31-33, with the following new paragraphs as follows:

~~Fig. 5-8 are flow diagrams illustrating the steps taken by various of the processes used to respond to an I/O read request to transfer requested data from physical storage to the host system requesting that data;~~

Fig. 5 is a flow chart illustrating a read request process;

Fig. 6 is a flow chart illustrating a host read transfer process;

Fig. 7 is a flow chart illustrating a read request disk issue process;

Fig. 8 is a flow chart illustrating a disk read transfer process;

12.4.6  
Please replace the paragraph at page 10, beginning at line <sup>12</sup>15, with the following amended paragraph:

Step 162 checks the processing request 72 of the selected physical disk 16 to determine if the "load" of the selected physical disk is appropriate; that is, if the processing request 72 is within a predetermined parameter (e.g., what?). If so, step 162 will exit in favor of step 164 in which the load distribution process 150 will pass the I/O read request to the read request disk issue process 100 (Fig. 7) in order to access the data and initiate the steps necessary to pass that data to the requesting processor system 12. The load distribution process 150 will then terminate at step 166.